

# The Philippian

The Monthly Newsletter of St. Philip's Lutheran Church of Hastings, Minnesota

Come and Worship...Come and Serve...Come and Learn...Come as you are  
...*Philip said to him, "Come and see" John 1:46*

May 2022

## May Events

Spring  
Grounds Clean Up  
May 7 at 9 am

Council Retreat  
May 15 at 11:30 am

Sign Up Now for  
Ladies Night Out  
and WELCA Day Trip

Upcoming Garage & Plant Sale  
June 11

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, that your way may be known upon earth, your saving power among all nations.

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you

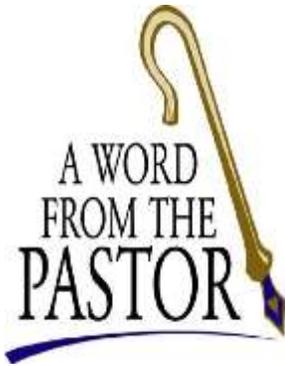
Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth.

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, has blessed us.

May God continue to bless us; let all the ends of the earth revere him.

### Psalm 67



A professor once said that the sixth Sunday of Easter may feel a bit like the twelfth day of Christmas – officially still in the zone but, practically speaking, most people have moved on. All the presents have been opened, the candy is long gone, I have proclaimed the Easter story, the most familiar Easter songs have been sung, the flowers have either wilted or been taken home.

Yet, our psalm for the sixth Sunday of Easter is so very appropriate for this season. Psalm 67 asks for a blessing that will make the Lord's way "known upon the earth," and God's "saving power among all nations". Surely that prayer is answered in the Resurrection of Christ!

This psalm works well for Easter. It declares that God's blessing -- and there is no blessing greater than Easter -- is for *all* people. We might be tempted at this particular time of year to feel deflated as the Easter crowd has drifted away. Psalm 67 does not go there. It imparts joy and prompts us to spread the Easter message everywhere. Easter reveals "the Lord's way as savior" and that "way" leads through death to resurrection, through darkness to light for the entire world. Psalm 67 reminds us that God's blessing is moving throughout the world to embrace "the nations" and "the peoples" of earth.

The Psalm is global. Its invitation is universal, resounding in verse 3 and again in 5. "Let the people praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you."

Verse 4 asks "the nations" to "be glad and sing for joy." Imagine being in a huge concert hall where massed choirs are singing from every side. The nations sing for joy because God judges *the people* with equity and guides *the nations* of earth. Everyone comes to the festival because God works in the history of all nations. Let us continue to join our voices in a global hymn of Easter praise!

*Your Servant in Christ,*

*Pastor Geier*

Thank you for the prayers for my father, Donald Schreder. Special thanks for the calls and cards, and to those that attended his funeral. It was much appreciated.

*Judy and Jerry Liffrig*

Thanks to everyone who prayed, sent cards, brought food or visited during my recovery from foot surgery. I felt blessed, and really appreciated your help in keeping our connections within our church community.

*Barb Jorenby*

Special thanks to all of the musicians who contributed their time and talents throughout the Lenten season in leading worship:

Holden Instrumentalists: Dave Tank and Kurt Zabel  
Cantors and Sunday Song Leaders: Lori Best, Mark Diischer, Maria Gathje, Ryan Hummel, Raul Jackson, Darlene Olson, Becky Raimann, David Weisser

JoyPhil Ringers: Sally Anderson, Brenda Arndtson, Bruce Arndtson, Gladys Campbell, Melissa Campbell, Cynthia Clanton, Maria Gathje, Vicki Pavlish, LuAnn Roiger, Julia Ronning, Julia Viktora-Croke, Lois Wroge

Unity Members: Deborah Dreher, Gary Evenson, Vonnie Olson, Glenda Schnirring, Al Todnem

Pianists: Julia Ronning and Linnea Ronning  
Substitute Pianist/Organist: Sam Willis

We are continually grateful and thankful for the faithful leadership of Noreen Swanson, who week after week, service after service, leads the congregation's song from the organ and piano.

St. Philip's is blessed to enjoy rich musical worship through sharing of the talents of so many musically gifted people. Thank you!

*Worship and Music Ministry*

## Preschool Chatter

Wow does time fly by! It is so hard to believe we are entering our last month of school already. In the month of April our children were very busy learning about Easter, flowers, and pond life. This year we were able to incorporate a few new Easter books thanks to the women of the WELCA group. One of these books is called "Easter Love Letters from God" written by Glenys Nellist. We were able to read a few pages each day leading up to Easter. The book guides you through Jesus arrival in Jerusalem through all the parts of Holy week and ends with a beautiful letter from God on Easter Sunday! We kicked off Holy Week by having a palm parade through the church. Other Easter fun included the jellybean prayer, egg patterning games, and an egg hunt! After Easter we moved on to learning about flowers where we were able to get hands-on planting and plant care experience by planting sunflowers. Then it was on to pond life where we learned about all the fun critters that live in or near ponds. Exploring spring and all it has to offer with little ones is so much fun!

During the month of April, we were also able to have parent teacher conferences. This is an important time in the spring particularly to talk with families about their child's progress. It is amazing to see how much these children progress and grow in eight months. Many of our students will be heading off to kindergarten this fall and it is a great opportunity for teachers to let parents know what to expect during the next exciting transition for their children.

As we start to finish off this school year we are also already looking forward to the next one. Enrollment for fall is underway. As district wide numbers for children decline it is a concern as well for our little program to get enough students to operate. If you know anyone looking for preschool please share our information, if you own a business we could hang a flyer up at, or are willing to place a yard sign in your yard to help us get the word out please let us know. We are also looking to maybe post some families personal experiences on our Facebook. If you or your child attended St. Philip's Preschool and would like to share a fun story about what you enjoyed about the program, please feel free to share it directly on our preschool page/tag us in your story or email it to us and we'd be happy to post it. As always thank you for your continued prayers and support!

*Becky Kaphing and Lorelei Rein  
Preschool Co-Directors*

## FROM FORMER MUSIC DIRECTOR, ELLEN DIISCHER...

Hello friends. While I am sad that because I am undergoing treatment for cancer, I can no longer safely meet and lead the choirs and bells at St. Philip's, I am so grateful that I have had the opportunity to serve as director of those groups for 27 years! It has been my honor and joy to be able to make music with so many wonderful and faithful singers and ringers. My heart is full of so many memories of rehearsals, special anthems, Children's Choir anthems and THE MUSICAL, plus many small moments of prayer and conversation with people in all of these groups. We have enjoyed countless hours of rehearsals, laughter, food and fellowship. I have been humbled by your faithfulness and by your willingness to devote so much of your time to the music ministry of St. Philip's, year after year. Parents of Children's Choir members: your diligence in making sure that your singers got to rehearsals, learned music, learned their parts for the musical, provided snacks and assistance demonstrated the level of your dedication to the music ministry at St. Philip's. This was never taken for granted. While I am not able to continue to lead these groups, I am also grateful that I will be able to continue to work at St. Philip's, as worship planner and coordinator.



At this time, I need to thank everyone, including so many children, who have taken the time to send cards, (some wonderful homemade cards!) food, and emails and texts. These things give me so much encouragement and remind me over and over of the strong connections that bind us together even when we can't see each other in person. I believe that God has a wonderful plan for my life and this is the next step. I do believe that God is faithful, and to quote one of our Musical songs: "When God makes a promise, the promise comes true!" And as I write this on Good Friday, I know that Easter Sunday IS coming!

Thank you for the opportunity to serve and as we move ahead, I will be worshipping with you online and continuing to pray with and for you.

May the peace of Christ be with you all.

*Ellen Diischer*

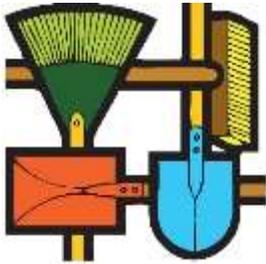
## GIVING AND EXPENSE UPDATE

March 2022

Actual	Budget	2021 Actual
<u>General and Miscellaneous Income YTD</u>		
\$135,913.66	\$130,360.03	\$121,647.98
<u>Capital Fund YTD</u>		
\$47,067.50	\$44,750.00	\$40,743.50
<u>Operational Expenses YTD</u>		
\$167,580.25	\$181,271.94	\$174,474.27
<u>Over / (Short)</u>		
\$15,400.91	(\$6,161.91)	(\$12,082.79)

## SPRING GROUNDS CLEAN UP DAY

May 7 starting at 9 am



An all-member invitational, for those who are able and available, is being held on May 7, at 9 am. Come with gloves, clippers, pruners, and a "kind" rake. Paper lawn bags are available from the last clean up. Coffee and treats will be

on hand. Sign up on the kiosk if you expect to come.

*Building and Grounds Ministry Team*

## SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

May 1	Acts 9:1-6 Revelation 5:11-14 John 21:1-19
May 8	Acts 9:36-43 Revelation 7:9-17 John 10:22-30
May 15	Acts 11:1-18 Revelation 21:1-6 John 13:31-35
May 22	Acts 16:9-15 Revelation 21;10, 22-2;5 John 14:23-29
May 29	Acts 16:16-34 Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21 John 17:20-26



## – AMONG OUR OWN –

*Congratulations to...*

**Steve and Tracy Pavelka** on their 30<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on May 2.

**Kevin and Stacey John** on their 5<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on May 6.

**Randy and Lynn Arndtson** on their 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on May 8.

**Jim and Darla Wilcox** on their 35<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on May 16.

**Wesley and Linda Ask** on their 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on May 30.

*Sympathies to...*

**Raul Jackson and family** as they mourn the death of Ruth Jackson

**Eunice Jilk and family** as they mourn the death of her cousin Don Loeffler

**Judy Liffrig and family** as they mourn the death of her father Donald Schreader



On Sunday morning after worship, our church council and members of all our ministry teams will meet at the Spring Lake Park Gathering Center overlooking the beautiful Mississippi River valley at 11:30 am. We will begin our retreat by enjoying a delicious "Potato Bar" for lunch. While at this afternoon retreat we will get to know one another better and do some deliberate planning for our mission and our ministry together. We will finish up around 5:30 pm. Please call the church office if you are able to come so that we can plan for enough food and snacks!

This retreat is not only for our church council members, but for anyone who has participated serving one of our many ministry teams OR if you think you might like to serve on one of our ministry teams! Even if you can only come for part of the day, we would love to see you.

If you are unable to participate in our retreat, please pray a special prayer for your church council and leaders as we seek to discern God's direction for our family of faith.





Please join Lisa Bergert in the Learning Room after the worship service the four Sundays after Easter (April 24, May 1, 8 and 15) to talk about the effects of mental illness on the people who are afflicted, Jesus' purpose and healing of these individuals, and his example to include and commune in fellowship together as children of God. We will look at current statistics to better understand the pervasiveness of mental illness in the United States and the increase of prevalence during the pandemic. With the use of New and Old Testament scripture, we will study how Jesus shows us how to live with mental illness, whether personally afflicted or in fellowship with those who are.

## LADIES NIGHT OUT IS BACK!



After a two year hiatus, Fellowship Ministry is happy to say it's time for the ladies of St. Philip's to come together again in fellowship and fun. This year we're trying something new, with a late afternoon gathering at The Hastings Public House (Hastings

Golf Club). Come enjoy the view on a summer evening, and test your palate with some light wines, paired with a variety of cheeses, crackers and bread. A wine expert will be on hand for the discussion. Bottles of wine will be available for purchase afterwards.

Invite a friend, relative or neighbor to join in on the fun!

WHEN: Wednesday, June 22

WHERE: Hastings Public House

TIME: 4:30 pm

SIGN UP: On kiosk in Narthex

COST: \$25 (includes wine, cheese and gratuity.)

Write check out to St. Philip's and put in envelope by sign-up sheet on kiosk. Place envelope in lock box by office.

DEADLINE: June 12

QUESTIONS: Contact Patty Todnem or Camille Nelson

## JOIN OUR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL ADVENTURE!

Discovery on Adventure Island – the Quest for God's Great Light!



Monday, June 20 - Thursday, June 23  
9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Available for preschool-aged kids (able to go to the bathroom on their own) through fifth grade. Online sign-up forms are available at [MyVBS.org/SPLC](http://MyVBS.org/SPLC) and paper sign-up forms are available in the Narthex.

**VOLUNTEER WITH US AT VBS!** We need YOUR talents to make VBS the best it can be! There are many ways to help out with VBS, including:

- Running the sign-in/sign-out tables
- Leading opening and closing assembly
- Being a group leader/helper
- Being a station leader/helper
- Making snacks
- Decorating beforehand
- Running the AV tech
- Taking photos



If you are a confirmation student, VBS counts toward next year's service hours!

Sign up to volunteer using a paper form or go to [MyVBS.org/SPLC](http://MyVBS.org/SPLC) for a link to the online form! Volunteer orientation is on Sunday, June 19 after morning worship.

Any questions about Vacation Bible School? Don't hesitate to contact Sarah Bennett at [sarahb@splchastings.org](mailto:sarahb@splchastings.org) or call the office!

**GERTENS FUNDRAISER** - If you ordered plants from our Gertens fundraiser, plant delivery will be on Saturday, May 14. We will get a drop-off ETA as we get closer to the date. Contact Sarah Bennett if you have any questions. Thank you for supporting our youth going to camp this summer!

**GRADUATION SUNDAY** will be on Pentecost Sunday, June 5! Come celebrate our wonderful high school graduates and wish them well on their next chapter in life!

## SUNDAY SCHOOL AND CONFIRMATION ENDING SOON

The last day of Sunday school is on May 1 and the last day of confirmation class is May 18. Don't forget to pick up a printout of the youth summer schedule at the Sunday school bulletin board (outside the fellowship hall)! We hope everyone has a fun, relaxing summer!

**JUNE 16 WELCA DAY TRIP** Ladies looking forward to warm weather? June 16 you are invited to join the WELCA group for a day out. We will start with lunch at the Wisteria Twig Tea Room and Café for lunch, then we will tour the Anderson Center, a historic site dedicated to art and ideas. We will meet at the church to car pool to Red Wing at 10:45 am. The tour will be \$5.00 and bring money for lunch. Please sign up on the kiosk before May 15.



## SPLC COLUMBARIUM AND GARDEN



A columbarium is a beautiful structure, containing niches (compartments) to hold the ashes of loved ones. Members of St. Philip's (and their families) who are making decisions for a final resting place have the option of our church home. Each niche is designed to hold up to two urns, which are provided with the lease agreement. A trifold brochure and application folder for anyone interested in leasing a niche are available at the welcome center. Let us know if you prefer to have the application US mailed to you. Please return application, along with payment, to the church office during business hours or via US Mail. For more information, call Gary McDougall at 651-216-7213 or Judy Hansen at 612-600-1209.

## TIED FLEECE BLANKET PROJECT

On Palm Sunday, St. Philips blessed 21 tied fleece blankets for My Very Own Bed, a charity providing beds and bedding to children who are coming out of homelessness or for other reasons don't have a bed to call their own. Members of the congregation generously donated fleece blanket kits or pairs of pieces of fleece yardage, the Do Days crew prepped the fleece by removing salvages and cutting the strips for tying and multiple people who came to the Lenten services tied the blankets before and after our Holden Evening Prayer sessions. Through the efforts of one of the Do Days regulars we also received a \$250 Thrivent grant during Lent which was used to buy additional cutting and sewing supplies to facilitate future projects.



*Darla Kimmes, Carolyn Schaar, Jennie Thomas, Richard Beatty, Bernita Weber and Vicki Pavlish  
Not pictured: Barb Jorenby*

## ALL ST. PHILIP'S MEMBERS NOW OWN A NEW AC UNIT

- The installation of a Trane 5 ton AC unit happened on April 4, by One Hour Heating and Air. Its cost was a bit over \$6,200. This unit replaces the failing unit in the far north Youth Room. This room was the first air conditioned room in St. Philip's facility. It was 1998, Pastor Phil Walen was pastor. Worship services were held in this room during hot summer days that year. Those around at that time still remember how "arrived" we felt to sit in an air conditioned room.



*Riley from One Hour*

*Seth from One Hour*

**HOLY WEEK PREPARATIONS** - Many tasks are linked to Holy Week, not the least of which is changing the language on the corner sign. Jim Wick and his wife Carla are shown taking care of this task on April 12. The giving of one's time is an act of stewardship. Jim has been St. Philip's sign person since Norm Holtorf needed to retire. Thank you Jim and Carla Wick.



**ON MAUNDY THURSDAY'S APRIL 14 WORSHIP SERVICE,** the 56ers Sunday School Class recited by memory Martin Luther's explanation of Holy Communion.



*Pictured are Tor Ronning, Brock Lundstrom, Micah Villavicencio and Sophia Villavicencio*

**LENTEN MENTOR PARTNERS**

Carter Lundstrom, 8th grade Confirmation student, with his mentor Glenda Schnirring upon completing five sessions about Forgiveness.



**FIRST COMMUNION RECEIVED**

St. Philip's welcomed these children into Jesus presence as it's received through Holy Communion.



Receiving their first communion on April 14, were Emily Rivera, Brock Lundstrom, Micah Villavicencio, Sofia Raimann, Sophia Villavicencio, Haven Wormley and Molly Wormley.

**EASTER FESTIVAL SERVICE**

Rejoicing in the Resurrection

It was like a new beginning for St. Philip's congregation as it welcomed 345 worshippers to its two morning services. Members who had been away for more than two years returned to their favorite pew, and warm exchanges among the members filled the narthex following both services. The handbell choir led by Mark Diischer, offered special music fitting for an Easter morning. Pastor Geier's hearty welcome assured everyone that it was indeed a day of celebration.



## NEW MEMBERS DON'T JUST "JOIN"

Welcoming a new member to St. Philip's is a big deal and it's everyone's job. While a sponsor is selected to stay in touch with a new member, the ongoing extension of oneself to those with a special name badge on is important.

*Sponsors Jim and Denise Jacobs with new family Kelly and Tony Nichols*



*New member Deb Frandrup during installation with sponsors Camille and Darryl Nelson*

*Member Art Luedtke extending a hand of welcome to Tony and Kelly Nichols and Johanna*



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

April 10, Palm Sunday, was a joyous day at St. Philip's as it received five members from three households into its membership.

**Deb Frandrup** renewed her St. Philip's membership, from a number of years ago. She resides with her husband Bill Frandrup on Fischer Avenue outside of Hastings. Deb has a married daughter, Amanda, who is the mother of Deb's three granddaughters, Linnea, Elizabeth and Josie, to whom she's completely devoted.



Deb also had a son Greg who was tragically killed in an auto accident in 2006. Amanda and Greg were both St. Philip's members.

Deb was born and raised in Montivideo, Minnesota, and resided in Faribault and St. James in the years that followed. She enjoyed employment at Controlled Data, and from there went to what was then known as Northwestern Credit Union and to what we now know as Wells Fargo. Deb is now retired from Wells Fargo. In addition to being with and nurturing her grandchildren, Deb enjoys canning jams and jellies, and gardening.

Camille and Daryl Nelson served as Deb Frandrup's sponsors. The entire congregation welcomes her return to the St. Philip's congregation and looks forward to our years ahead.

**Sheila and Sam Robertson** lived in the metro area before moving to their Hastings home on 16th Street West. Their first visit to St. Philip's was at Easter in 2021.



Sheila was born and raised in Nashwauk, Minnesota, and attended Grand Rapids high school. She went on to college at Gustavus Adolphus, in St. Peter. Following college, Sheila returned to Grand Rapids to a career at its YMCA where she met Sam Robertson.

Sam was born and raised in Northfield, Minnesota, but his family moved to Grand Rapids during his high school years. Sam and Sheila did not become acquainted during that time. Sam went on to college at Bemidji State University and also returned to Grand Rapids for work at its YMCA. This is where Sam and Sheila became well acquainted and later married in 2019.

At present Sheila works for the city of Mendota Heights in its Parks and Recreation Department. Sam is employed by District 200 in its Community Education Kids Campus Program. Sam has a degree in elementary education.

The hobbies of Sheila and Sam encompass a lot of active sports activity such as pickleball and basketball. They also enjoy board games, going to

concerts, and doing road trips. They are enthusiastic Timberwolves fans, have a cat they adore, and will start a garden at their new home this spring.

Serving as sponsors for Sheila and Sam are Kate and John Nye. St. Philip's extends a warm welcome to Sheila and Sam and is pleased to have them in its church family.

### Kelly and Tony Nichols and daughter Johanna

reside in their own home in Rosemount. Having visited churches closer to their home, they found an affinity and friendliness at St. Philip's that helped them make the decision to bring their new daughter Johanna to St. Philip's to be baptized back in October of '21.



Kelly, being from Hastings also has a close friendship with Jim and Denise Jacobs daughter Kelly and were sponsors for Kelly Jacobs and her husband's child at St. Philip's a couple years ago.

Kelly is employed at an Independent employee-owned insurance agency in Eden Prairie. Tony is a driver with UPS (5 years). Tony also has extensive knowledge about lawn care.

As for hobbies, Kelly and Tony bought a canoe (an ultralight) as their first purchase as a couple. They are drawn annually to the Boundary Waters (except for '21) putting in at Tofta. This year they will include daughter Johanna along with their tent and canoe. Their newest hobby will be a garden which they will start this year.

Kelly and Tony practice environmentally favorable decisions in their lives. They also value a community where all people are welcome. Denise and Jim Jacobs are sponsors for Kelly and Tony and Johanna since they have known each other for many years. St. Philip's welcomes Kelly and Tony as valuable partners in its ministry.



## GARAGE AND PLANT SALE UPDATE

*(Pull the enclosed flyer and keep it in view)*

Remember Saturday, June 11, is the largest fellowship/fundraiser St. Philip's does. It began in 2004. A steering committee of at least 50 leads the charge led by one main coordinator who is now Deborah Dreher. Deborah led the sale in '21 with a pandemic all around us. Eighteen thousand dollars were realized for outreach and local needs as determined by the congregation.

Tips...

1. If you have **jewelry**, please bring it to the church office in advance of the sale so it can be sorted and priced in advance. (Do that any day soon)
2. **Puzzles** are very popular and we need them for our historical puzzle room. People come for them, so we can sell as many as you can donate. (all ages and types)

Worker time sign-ups will begin mid-May. Be prepared to give the sale some time between 9 am to 8 pm. Monday through Friday noon during the week before June 11.

Please make St. Philip's annual signature event the "talk of the town".

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## KEEPING CONNECTED

### WHY DO PEOPLE TEND TO SIT IN THE SAME PEW EVERY WEEK?

This question intrigued me so I decided to do a short



experiment. I went to a different area for a couple of weeks (like I said - short experiment). It was almost like being in a different church. Everything seemed different - the view of our Pastor - the view of our altar - the people that sat around me were different - it was kind of like people were thinking - well, this is a little strange - this isn't a

usual spot for Gerri - the music seemed different - the acoustics were different - I couldn't just sneak into my choice of seating.

I googled this question and it said that throughout history, it is known that having a reserved pew in church was not all that uncommon. So much so, that in ancient times, people would pay to rent their seat to ensure that they had a place to sit every

week. While this is no longer practiced - in some congregations it is an unspoken rule that everyone tends to sit in the same place week after week. When this pattern is disputed, it is almost as though you feel lost without your favorite seat.

All in all, it boils down to feeling comfortable - like coming HOME! After all, aren't we to feel that church is HOME? Isn't that part of the reason we come back?

Guess what! I am going back to my usual spot! It feels like HOME!

Changing your seating can help you to meet and greet new people - BUT - putting your hand out first (or in today's world, maybe you put out your elbow) is highly acceptable. My Dad always told me 'Sis, it doesn't make any difference who does it first - just somebody has to do it!' My Dad was a smart man!

The pandemic changed the way we greet each other and that is why we came up with 'KEEPING CONNECTED' in our monthly newsletters. Your Stewardship Team is delighted with the positive responses we have received. If you read them, you will find that you have connections with other members that you were unaware of before. The people who write their bios, stories or whatever have been so positive and willing to share. I will say that I believe we have had not more than two families who have chosen not to write their story, right, Glenda?! We respect their decisions!

Personally, I am just getting used to not wearing a mask. I am not ready for real hugs yet. I will have to do Virtual Hugs until I am. I am a North Dakota hugger so this is hard for me! But I will survive!

Many people have written about their reasons for joining SPLC - some that really stood out were - people are so friendly - they asked about me and my family - they weren't pushy - they cared! That reminds me - people HEAR with their ears but they LISTEN with their hearts! Let's all together keep this going forward - it will even carry over into new church members - this is always needed! We need new blood to help our beloved SPLC grow and maintain its vitality in the years to come! Learning more about each other through our monthly newsletters is a step in the right direction! THANK YOU to all who have written their stories - THANK YOU to all who read the stories - THANK YOU in advance to all who will write their stories in the future! St. Philip's Lutheran Church is BLESSED! AMEN!

*Gerri Lundby*

Greetings from the Taffes! Our introduction to St. Philip's was in the mid to late 70's when Dan Seidelmann was the pastor. Chuck and I came from different religious backgrounds and this church seemed to be a good fit for the two of us.



Barb grew up in the small town of Hoffman (west central Minnesota, close to Alexandria) on a farm in a family of three girls. We often laugh about the size, as I taught in a school with more people than my whole town. I attended the University of Minnesota, Morris with a degree in Elementary Education and Physical Education where I also met Chuck. Later I attended St. Mary's in Winona to further my education. My first teaching experience was in Monticello - close to the metro area but still a town. We married in 1975 after Chuck had completed his first year of teaching in Hastings as an Elementary Physical Education teacher. The commute would have not been manageable, thus I resigned and did some subbing in area schools. I was at the right place at the right time (divine intervention?) and started my career in District 196 Rosemount in December of 1975. I retired from Greenleaf (close to the zoo) in 2009 with the majority of time spent in the second grade.

Chuck was born in Morris, Minnesota, the eldest of seven kids. He attended parochial school and later the University at Morris. Chuck spent his entire career teaching Elementary Physical Education and was in all 4 of the schools where he retired from McAuliffe Elementary in December of 2007. He has always been active in athletics and did some coaching in town, mostly with the baseball programs when Jeff was starting to participate.

Both of our kids were baptized and confirmed at St. Philip's. Jeff is presently living in the Lakeville area with his wife Jenni and twins Georgia and Walker who are in the 3rd grade. Jeff played professional hockey until he retired at 39, old for that kind of a career! He now works in estate planning and insurance. Jenni works in interior design at a ranch in California both virtually and on-site as needed. Jamie and her husband Paul Thorn both work for the Department of Veteran's Affairs housed in the Federal Building. Jamie has been working from home for much of her career, thus the Pandemic didn't change her work

conditions, but brought Paul to also working virtually. They are parents to Louie who is 4 1/2 and Veda who is almost 3. I'm thankful that both kids and families are an easy drive from Hastings which is convenient for us to be available and enjoy the grandkids.

Chuck and I did some traveling in the U.S. through the years - many of the trips brought us to various ice arenas. Later, I was given the opportunity to travel abroad to experience various countries with Jamie and my sister when we visited Jeff. Chuck still likes playing tennis and I keep saying I should take up golf again after my long time away from the sport! I do enjoy Bunco and Book Club with my Apple Valley retired teacher friends.

As members we have done some ushering and I have worked at the garage sale, assembled the newsletters, counted money, and helped with communion. An interesting little fact: while in High School, I spent some time at Norm and Lenora Holtorf's home after becoming friends with their daughter Pat whom I met at 4-H camp at the state fair. Little did I know that I would eventually call Hastings my home for the past 47 years.

*Chuck and Barb Taffe*

Greetings from the Anderson / LaBreck family – Sally Anderson, Frank LaBreck, and Elin and Jamie LaBreck. We've been involved at St. Philip's since 2001, when we moved from Minneapolis to Hastings. We happened to move in next door to the Spence family, and our daughter Elin immediately made friends with Katie Spence. Katie invited her to Sunday school, and that was that.



I grew up in Virginia, Minnesota, moved to the Twin Cities for college, and then stayed in the area. Most of my career has been in records management, with the last 21 years at Dakota County in the Information Technology department. I work mainly with electronic records, using a system that currently holds about 45 million electronic documents. But I still work with a lot of paper, including the county's historic records, some of which go back to the 1840s.

Frank grew up in Wisconsin, and graduated from the University of Wisconsin Eau Claire. He is now retired. He's not much of a church person, but you may occasionally see him around.

We both have a lot of hobbies and interests, mainly related to history. For many years, we've been involved in "living history" organizations and museums. Currently, we volunteer for the LeDuc Historic Estate, the Dakota County Historical Society, and the Castlerock Museum in Alma, Wisconsin.

I enjoy sewing, family history research, bicycling, yoga, and travel. And books, of course. I have belonged to the same book club since 1989, and I've worked in the book section of the church garage sale since the first year. Elin took part in many of the children's musicals at St. Philip's, and she was in the chime choir. When she went off to college, I said I would fill in her spot for awhile. That was 10 years ago, and I'm still there!

Elin got her degree in Materials Science Engineering at the University of Minnesota in 2016. She worked at SpaceX in Seattle for 3 years, working with the printed circuit boards that go into their Starlink satellites. Looking for a change, last year she applied to several jobs in Europe. She was hired last April by Ericsson, a Swedish-based telecommunications company. She works at one of their factories in Rosenheim, Germany, and she really enjoys living in Bavaria. Jamie and I were able to visit her and spend this last Christmas in Germany.



Jamie is finishing up a 2-year program in Civil Engineering Technology at Dakota County Technical College, and will graduate in May. He just accepted a full-time job with a Minneapolis-based engineering firm. He enjoys computer and role-playing games, fencing, living history events, and volunteering at the Castlerock Museum.

*Sally Anderson, Frank, Elin and Jamie LaBreck*

*"Let the people praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you."*

*Psalm 67*

## ST. PHILIP'S STAFF

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## ST. PHILIP'S LUTHERAN CHURCH AND PRESCHOOL

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651-437-6541

[www.splchastings.org](http://www.splchastings.org)

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### Church Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday: 9:00 am – 4:30 pm

Friday: 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

### Sunday Worship Service:

In Person and Livestream Worship at 9:30 am

(Livestream link on [www.splchastings.org](http://www.splchastings.org),

YouTube and Facebook)

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